



*Warren County Homemakers gather for a group portrait during a district extension meeting.*

meeting on July 3, 1939 state, "A motion was duly seconded and carried, Jane Amos was reappointed as Colored Home Demonstration Agent at same salary as last year \$25 per month." According to the minutes this was the first mention of the employment of a Negro home demonstration agent in the county.

The home demonstration program in the county was considered two separate programs from the beginning until 1965 when the program was integrated. During the years, however, the organization structure, programs, and projects were similar.

1939 was the first year pressure canners were used in the county and to say the least, some of the women were quite leery at first. One homemaker reported she was so frightened by using the canner that she had her husband assist her. It was he who removed the canner of beans from the stove and immediately released the steam. The results soon taught husband and wife that this was not a recommended practice. The next canning experience met with better results.

### **First Electric Lines**

1940 was a year to remember. On May 10 at 10:00 a.m., the first R.E.A. electric lines in Warren County were energized. The women knew nothing about electricity or how to prepare for its use. The home demonstration agents had demonstrations on types and sizes of wire and number of circuits for safe and efficient service. A few electrical appliances had been bought when World War II started and then families had to do without everything ex-

cept the bare necessities in support of the war effort. One homemaker who purchased the first washing machine in her community reported inviting neighbors to come and bring their clothes along to wash while they visited.

A project that caused much comment through the years was the mattress and comforter project in 1941. There were 4,062 mattresses made in Warren County. A fee of \$1 per mattress was charged to take care of operating expenses. Some days as many as 50 mattresses were completed. Over 2,200 comforters were made. A fee of 25¢ was charged for each of these. The home agents and hired supervisors worked with those making mattresses and comforters. Many families had better bedding as a result of this project.

Slides as a teaching tool were first used in the county in 1941 by specialists in landscaping and home furnishings.

Through the years Extension agents have taught homemakers to make the best use of what they had. This was especially true during the war years. Clothes were remodeled for a more attractive appearance and household furnishings were repaired and refinished to make them more comfortable and pleasing to the eye. Families planted victory gardens from which fresh vegetables were harvested for table and conservation. Club women participated in various drives put on at this time, for example collecting grease and scrap metal. They also rolled bandages for Red Cross and collected clothing for the war-torn countries of Europe.

In 1940, soon after home demonstration